

THE
PUBLISHERS' AND STATIONERS'
Weekly Trade Circular

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE
*Publishing, Printing, Book, Stationery, News, Music, Art, and Fancy Trades, and
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With which is incorporated the
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THE trade in stationery and fancy goods has never been at so low an ebb as it is at present. During the summer months there is in general but little doing, but for many years the trade has not suffered so much as it has this year. The chief cause for this has been the political excitement incidental to the presidential year, which has been the means of disorganizing all branches of business, more or less. The warm weather has been another cause of the present prostration; and yet another cause may be found in the condition of

the labor market, both at home and abroad. The recent strikes in this city have, in several instances, brought about an increase in the price of the materials from which the goods are manufactured, the price of which the manufacturer has been compelled to make still higher, to meet the requirements of the demand for eight hours, or a twenty per cent, advance in wages. The same causes have operated to affect the European market, and there, if possible, matters are more disorganized than they are here. Prices throughout are unsettled, and the greatest uncertainty prevails regarding the future.

In American stationery there has been little or nothing doing, owing to the small demands of general business, and to the vacations of the schools and colleges, which usually consume large quantities of domestic material. The demand for foreign stationery has also been small, but new styles of writing papers have arrived, which have commanded general attention. After many years of use, ruled papers for social correspondence have been declared vulgar, and it is very likely that they will disappear entirely. The latest imported papers are all plain, and very delicately tinted with various colors, and cut to two sizes. These sizes are four and a half by seven inches, making the ordinary note sheet, and another five by six inches, for invitations and short notes. These papers when used are to be folded but once, and they are accompanied by envelopes of the same style and finish, which fit them exactly. Whatever of these styles that have been imported so far have been of the very finest quality, and though they are rather expensive, it is thought they will become very fashionable, and consequently have a large sale. The shape and style of the envelopes being suitable for wedding cards and party invitations, cards of the same tint are furnished. These papers can be had of any desired tint, put up in handsome boxes, containing two and a half quires of paper and fifty envelopes. These boxes sell at retail for two dollars. It is the general opinion that these new papers will not only run out the finer qualities of ruled papers, but also the fancy French papers which have commanded the market for so long a time. They are handsome and elegant, and the sizes being convenient, there is no reason why their use should not become general. These papers are manufactured at present both in France and England, but the productions of either country resemble the other closely. Some of the American manufacturers have imitated them, but the domestic productions are of a much poorer quality, and the general finish is much inferior.

There has been great difficulty recently in obtaining mathematical, optical, or surgical instruments, from either Germany or Switzerland. It is impossible to place an order at any fixed price, as the market is advancing, and it is uncertain when the maximum price will be reached. In consequence of this the manufacturers will only take orders to be charged for at the ruling price that prevails at the time the orders are fulfilled. Even under these circumstances, these goods are difficult to obtain, for skilled workmen are very scarce, and the manufacturers have more orders ahead of them than they can fulfil for the next three months. Vienna goods are at present occupying the attention of the importers. Most of them have received their samples, and many of them have received invoices of goods, but the uncertainty as to how prices will rule has kept the trade backward. Large orders have been sent to Europe, however, and an extensive trade is expected as soon as the cold weather sets in. Judging from the sample lots now on exhibition, it is safe to say that there will be offered for sale during the coming holiday season a finer class of goods than ever before. The old staid styles have been discarded, and it would appear that each manufacturer has tried to surpass his competitor in unique and elegant designs.

Noticeable among these goods are a new style of portfolios, which resemble large pocketcases. They are made of black and red Russia leather and variously colored Turkey morocos. The edges are bound with gilded metal, and the interior is lined with heavy silk, and furnished with pockets for paper and envelopes. These portfolios are

hardly intended for a travelling convenience, as they are flexible throughout and contain no ink. Their real purpose is to be placed upon a writing table, where they furnish a convenient receptacle for writing materials, and also make an elegant ornament. These portfolios can be had all the way from \$6.50 to \$18.00 each.

Samples of desks are shown of the most elaborate character. They are manufactured of the most expensive woods, and inlaid and ornamented to an extent that has heretofore been unequalled. Some of the handsomest of these articles are made of ebony, and ornamented with gold, but the designs and styles are so different, and yet all are so elegant that every taste can be satisfied, and a description becomes almost impossible. They sell from \$15 to \$60.

Glove boxes are offered of every possible shape and style. Some of them resemble travelling bags, and others porte-monnaies. There are also the ordinary style of plain boxes with a hinged lid. All of them are lined with variously colored silks, and the more expensive are highly perfumed. They sell all the way from \$6 to \$35. The latest importations of porte-monnaies would seem to indicate that for ladies the old-fashioned metal clasp is again coming in vogue. These articles are now offered, made of all possible materials, including silk, velvet, morocco, Russia leather, and also shark and crocodile skin. These latter materials are certainly new, and will undoubtedly be well received. The silk, velvet, and leather porte-monnaies are made in many different styles, some of which resemble small clasped books, and are extremely beautiful.

The pocket-books that were formerly imported, with metal edges and spring fastenings, are entirely out of fashion, and but very few of them are to be found. Their place has been taken by those already mentioned, and the ordinary styles with an elastic band. These are thought to be at once more convenient and durable, for if the elastic wears out, it can be readily replaced; but with the spring fastenings it is otherwise. In this line of pocket-books some goods have been offered by the Pocket-Book Makers' Association, which are well worthy of being mentioned. This association is composed of the workmen who were formerly employed by Mr. C. Ramshon, of Maiden lane, and who enabled him to sustain the high reputation his goods obtained. When Mr. Ramshon went out of business, last May, it was continued by his workmen, and it is but just to say they now manufacture the finest American goods in the market. More than this, their goods are in every way equal to the best imported, and for the same quality of goods they sell at a much lower figure. The only trade in fancy goods during the last month has been in the matter of belt satchels, which have recently become so popular among ladies. These articles are being ordered from France and Germany in large quantities, and they bid fair to become an important article in the trade for the coming season. They are made of all imaginable shapes and styles, and may had at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$15.00 and \$18.00.

There are offered by some importers a new style of odor boxes. They are of various shapes, but they are so arranged that upon touching a spring the top opens in the centre, and falling back on either side, reveals the small cut-glass flacons containing the odors. These boxes are made of various materials, and may be had with either two, four, or six bottles.

Many other articles are offered in the way of calendars, thermometers, work-baskets, cabas, paper weights, etc., etc., in all of which the very best taste is shown.

The prominent material in all these goods is Russia leather, which is just now very fashionable, and is applied to every possible purpose. An idea of the extent of the fancy goods trade this year may be had, from the fact that the importations for the week ending August 17 were \$45,872, making \$1,006,043 since the first of the year, against \$687,587 for the same period last year.

As already stated large orders have been sent out, many of the goods are expected to arrive by the end of the present month.

We have yet to mention among the novelties the Greeley fan, which created such a sensation last month. This created more excitement than any similar article that has been put upon the market for some time past, and it returned to the publishers, McLoughlin Bros. a handsome profit. Those fans were published at fifty cents retail, but so great was the demand for them, that it was impossible to provide a sufficient supply, and in many instances they sold much higher. Messrs. McLoughlin are preparing for the fall trade a variety of new games and toy books, which promise to become very popular.

Printers' Suicide.

THERE is so much common sense, plainly and strikingly put, in the following, from advance sheets of *Old and New*—the article forms the customary introduction to "The Examiner," or book department—that we give it to our readers in full:

One part of the existing controversy in Christendom about wages affords an interesting example of the complicated state of affairs caused by a high civilization. The individual instance of cause and effect referred to, is this: the workmen in our printing-offices are at present driving themselves out of the printing business; the printing business out of the United States, and the United States out of literature. Already many books are manufactured in London, shipped across the Atlantic in whole editions, and piled in our shops, ready for sale, at less than the cost of paying our own compositors, and other workmen, for making them here.

The way in which this comes to pass is as follows: out of what the customer pays for a book, the author is entitled to a certain payment, the publisher to another, the bookbinder to another, the paper-maker to another, the printer to another, and the retailing bookseller to the rest. Either one of these can, without violating any statute or common law, demand, and insist on, more than his fair share. To do this, however, will only shut him out of the business. If an author insists on one million dollars for his manuscript, after the fashion of the late Mr. Ruloff, at offering his work on philology to the American Philological Association, he will have the manuscript left on his hands. If the publisher demands ten dollars for a book worth only one dollar, the edition will remain piled in his lofts. Of this error, we once knew an instance where the unbending haughtiness of a worthy old gentleman caused him even to refuse a fair offer for such an edition: he said, if the public did not know enough to pay a good price for a good work, they should not have it at all. If a paper-maker should ask three times the usual price for paper, all his stock would, in like manner, remain on hand. If the bookbinder should quadruple his charges, editions would go elsewhere to be bound. If the compositors, pressmen, stereotypers, and other workmen of the printing-office, should refuse to work, unless their pay should be doubled, then books would have to stop being made; and, if the retailer should demand three-quarters of the retail

price for his own profit, no books would be sent him to sell.

It is true that if any five out of these six parties in interest should agree together to yield to the demands of the sixth, and to do their part of the work without gaining anything by it, Mr. Number Six, whichever he be, might possibly be maintained in his extortion; but non-resistance to such measures is at least as rare as acquiescence in assault and battery. People must live.

Now, some rough approach can be made to the apportionment of these profits on making books, an approach which would not satisfy M. Quetelet, nor Dr. Jarvis; but which will serve, at least, for illustration. Approximately, out of one dollar, which is paid, say for one copy of Messrs. Roberts Brothers' publication, "The Infinite and the Finite," by Mr. Parsons, the money goes thus:

To the author.....	\$0.10
To the publisher.....	.10
To the paper-maker.....	.15
To the bookbinder.....	.15
To the printer and stereotyper.....	.10
To the retail bookseller, or to him and his customer.....	.40

\$1.00

But note these important further differences: the publisher's expense is certain, and his gain very uncertain, since he does pretty well if he makes his ten per cent. on as many as three books out of every ten that he publishes. The publisher thus runs the greatest risk of all. The working-men, on the other hand, run the least risk; for their wages (unless their employer fails), are paid them every Saturday night. Indeed, it is in very many cases true, that the author of a book gets nothing for his time and labor in writing it, the publisher nothing for his money, time, labor, and current expenses in publishing it; while the working-men have received their safe and regular pay. The retailer, whose profit seems so large, very often allows his customer a good deal of it. Sometimes, also, there is a jobber between publisher and retailer. And the expenses of the retailer are so great, besides, that his profit is by no means so great as it looks.

Now, this apportionment of profits has been settled by the natural operation of business causes, each party wanting all he can get, and more too, and still, each party being as willing as other people to "live and let live." Authors are not too rich, as a class. As many publishers out of a hundred become bankrupt, or die poor, after a whole life of hard work, as in other businesses. The like is true of employing printers, paper manufacturers, and bookbinders. And in such a state of things, it is as true now as it always is, that, if any one party insists on additional pay, that gain must be lost by somebody else. As things are at present, the public will not pay more for books than they now pay. The tendency is rather the other way. As paper money approaches gold value, that is, as the number of paper dollars diminishes, this tendency to pay less will be stronger. And the sale of books is always small in the year of a presidential canvass, as every publisher knows.

No working-man gets too much pay. That may be admitted at once. But there have been occasions when working-men have exacted more pay than their employers could afford. And the result was, that the employers discontinued business. None of the six parties in interest in book-making gets too much money. But, as things are now, none of them can afford to lessen his own share, in order to increase the others. If, therefore, as we said at first, the printers shall insist on any important increase of their wages at present,

they will cause the publishing business of the United States to be stopped here, and transferred to England, faster than is already happening. And then they themselves can, if they will, "go West"—or go to Jericho. Lastly, authors must, in the long run, live on the same side of the Atlantic with their publishers; and, as fast as American publishing decreases, an almost parallel diminution of the number and excellence of American writers will closely follow.

Readers' Emendations.

PROPOSING to issue a new edition of that always popular, but long since out-of-print book, Bristed's "Five Years at an English University," the publishers found that not a copy could be bought for love or money, and betook themselves perforce to the Mercantile Library, where one was obtained for revision and resetting. It was duly forwarded to the author, but he had already made the desired alterations from the half-calf copy in his own library, too precious to be sacrificed to the relentless shears of the foreman, on a list which he forwarded to his publishers, with his additions as well, returning the volumes and requesting that the publishers would see that his marks were properly transferred. This was done, but the surprised publishers, on glancing over the result, found many unexpected emendations of a most astounding character—the most being inexpressible in good society save in symbols of brief but heavy dashes. Mr. Bristed having taken occasion to make some comparative comments on American institutions, the disputatious collegians who had been reading this copy for a score or more of years, had expressed their differing views with more force than elegance in well-rounded expletives and marginal debate. The author would have been surprised indeed had he opened the package as it came to him, at this outspoken if not dignified criticism, and had the volume gone to press as it stood, one of the most remarkable of curiosities would have been added to the museum of literary history. Happily it didn't.

The incident is suggestive, however, of a noteworthy line of criticism. It is entirely outrageous for readers of a borrowed book to make impudent record of their private views upon other people's pages, but these abused pages are sometimes made very interesting by their wickedness. Like enough there were grains of good sense and critical hints even on the pages of Mr. Bristed's book that might have been worth his while to note, and "to see ourselves as others see us" would be a most happy regimen for many authors. If the opinion of the public is the foundation of all criticism, as some claim, here is the fountain-head. And how might the growing author—the fictionist in especial—be guided into popularity and success by observing the gently sarcastic "marginal references" of "Sweet" or "How nice," or the more frank and point-blank *mem.*, "This page is awful stupid?"

We make no charge for the suggestion of this free education offered to authors by the subscription libraries. But when next the great novelist Podgers undertakes a new work, let him take our gratuitous advice and make a tour of the copies of his books lodged on the public shelves. Could he get at the private ones, how much more could he learn. Nothing is more dearly prized by collectors than the annotations in great men's libraries, and we have met often—sometimes even from the Nazareth of Mercantile shelves—outcropping discussions in pencil which would do credit to the author—it may be, inform him. But let no arrogant knave find in our little dissertation excuse for the inexcusable Vandalism of scratching up other people's copies.

If the end is good, the means are bad, very bad indeed, and if the miscreants come before us as judge, they may know that States Prison for life will be the least we shall give them.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM GERMANY.

LEIPSIK, July 25, 1872.—In comparing the statistics of works published in Germany during the years 1870 and 1871, some interesting speculations may be entered upon as to the why and wherefore of the facts shown by figures. The number of publications has increased from 10,058 in 1870 to 10,669 in 1871. Special branches, however, show an increase or falling-off of a remarkable character. Theology, for instance, is poorer by 108 works; ancient philology shows a decrease of 49 and modern philology an increase of 47 works; works of poetry and art have 250 more volumes than during the preceding year. The current year has also made a good start, and from January to July 4,316 works are already catalogued. Theology counts 500, law and government 417, medicine 171, natural history 240, education 550, philosophy 92, and philology 301 publications; historical works 228, biographical, etc., 82, geographical 84; commerce and the science of war have produced 156 each; literature 158; novels number 135; theatricals and music are represented by 131 works; popular writings 75, and miscellaneous volumes 177. It seems impossible that there can be a dull season for German publishers, for they must produce even more than double this quantity to equal last year's quota of volumes.

B. G. Teubner, in Leipzig, is publishing a literary biographical dictionary to the history of German national literature. Heinrich Kurz furnishes biographical notices of all poets and prose writers, also a list of the works of each author, and a statement of all the works that treat of this author in general or of any one of his works in particular, and a report of all the translations of the author's works. The publisher relies upon the interest and help of the German publishers in this tremendous enterprise.

Reifenstein, in Vienna, is to publish a large colored engraving of Titian's celebrated "Madonna with the Cherries," for the exhibition of 1873. The engraving is made from the picture at the Vienna Belvedere, which was restored in such perfection by Erasmus Engert. The work has been intrusted to the artist Joseph Marastai, and a large new printing-press is being constructed by the publisher for this difficult and novel undertaking.

Bernhard Tauchnitz has received an officer's cross from the King of Holland. Trübner has been favored with the cross of knighthood by the Grand Duke of Baden; and Wilhelm v. Braumüller, bookseller in Vienna, has received the cross of knighthood of the third degree of the Order of Pius IX., for his efforts to promote and spread truly scientific Catholic literature.

The Berlin ladies' paper "Bazar," formerly in the hands of the proprietor, Von Schäfer-Voit, has now become the property of a society of shareholders. It has been very successfully conducted during the first half year of the new régime, and shows a circulation of 133,500 copies. There has already been a profit of \$72,460. This changing of proprietorship has led to a little trouble between the former manager and Paul Linlau, the well-known author. The latter had been engaged as editor of the paper by written contract for a specified period of time. When the paper was sold to the "Union Bank," and became a shareholding

concern, Mr. Lindau declared that he would no longer be its editor, as he did not wish to enter into business relations with the executive committee of that association, but also declared himself ready to abide by his contract with the former proprietor, and put in his claim for the stipulated salary. As his demand was not satisfied, Lindau sued his former employer. The publisher pleaded that it must be a matter of perfect indifference to the editor who was proprietor of the journal he worked for, so long as his salary was paid. The court, however, sided with Mr. Lindau, and the publisher was obliged to pay the salary up to the expiration of the contract, because every author (and especially the editor of a paper) is supposed to stand in personal relations with his publisher, and a contract made between them cannot be broken before the time, except by mutual consent, and cannot be made over to a purchaser as merchandise. This decision, which of course is conclusive and bears justice on its face, may become very inconvenient to the publisher of a paper under certain circumstances, as papers are often sold on very short warning.

The annual assembly of the Shakespeare Society was this year attended by many eminent men. It was resolved to publish a three volume commentary to the great translation now finished, under the auspices of the society. A committee, consisting of Professors Elze and Leo and Commerzienrath Oechelhäuser, was appointed to edit the work. The finances of the society are in flourishing condition.

Friedrich Gerstäcker has left a very rich collection of Indian utensils and weapons and foreign curiosities of every variety. In accordance with his will these are to be sold at auction very shortly. It seems almost sinful to break so complete and interesting a collection, and it is to be hoped that some interested parties may come forward and buy in the lot.

On the 26th of last month another of Germany's distinguished writers passed away. Edward Maria Oettinger was born in 1806 in Breslau, and has been known almost all his life as journalist and novel-writer. He was a man of powerful mind, exhaustive knowledge, and sparkling humor, endowed with a wonderful power of description. In his latter years he was doomed to drink the cup of bitterness and sorrow to the dregs. In spite of all his years of work he spent his last days in positive want and a prey to sickness that left him blind some years ago. He began his career as journalist in Vienna, and afterwards resided in almost all the principal cities of Germany. He ranks next to Saphir, whom he much resembles as humorist and satirist. He had also early devoted himself to bibliography and possessed a knowledge of books, especially of historical and biographical works, that surpassed that of the most eminent bibliographers of his time. His bibliographical works appeared in French, and he was still engaged upon the most celebrated one, "Moniteur des Dates," when he died.

Robert Prutz, the celebrated poet and historian of literature, is also dead. He was born in 1816 in Stettin, graduated from college as student of philology 1838, and was immediately introduced to the highest literary circles of Berlin by his friend Chamisso. His genius for a long time sought blindly for some congenial occupation, and after a few years he began his career as lecturer, in which he distinguished himself to the end. His subjects were generally literature and studies of character of leading writers. His poems are generally of a patriotic ring, and were mostly written during the stormy years from 1841 to 1850. As lyric poet, how-

ever, he has shown great power and passion, and his humor and satire are very telling. He died on the 21st of June when just about to set out on a journey to some baths. His health had been very much impaired for several years.

Authors and publishers have made great promises for the delight of literary and scholastic readers. Light literature seems especially favored, something extraordinary for Germany. Freytag is at work remodelling and finishing a novel began some years back, which he calls "The Merchant," and which he will probably treat after the manner of his deservedly popular "Debit and Credit." Edmund Höfer has just completed a novel of the times entitled, "The Demagogues," and A. v. Winterfeld has a comic novel in press, "The Fools of Love." Quite a curiosity in fiction has just been published by Holzenwarth of Vienna. An original novel in the Hebrew language "Hatöe d'barke hachaeim" (Life's Wanderings [?]), in which the author, Peter Smolensky, pictures the Russian and Jewish-Russian relations in masterly style. It will probably soon be translated for the benefit of interested Gentiles. A posthumous work of Charles Sealsfeld is now publishing in the Vienna *Deutsche Zeitung*. Alfred Meissner has obtained the manuscript from the brother of the "Great Unknown." "The Story of the Hofrath" is announced for the end of next month, from the pen of the prolific Catholic author, Ida Gräfin Hahn-Hahn. One of the novels of Emmy v. Rothenfels, entitled, "Constance," is to be published by Kollmann of Leipzig, who brought out her most popular novels some time ago. The authoress died at Florence at the close of last year, before she had fulfilled the promises of her early works. But by far the most important novel lately issued, is Otto Müller's "Fall of Constance." The author is acknowledged one of the most talented novel writers of the day. The work occupies three volumes, and is founded on historical facts and studies, which, however, the author uses merely as a basis for the most imaginative and original structure.

Erieke of Halle published a book some time ago that rather startled by its title, but sold very rapidly. It was a pamphlet by A. v. Hartmann, with the uncompromising name "God, the Error of Thousands of Years." A new edition is now publishing, but the authorities have notified the publisher that the title must be a little modified, and the same heresy will be toned down *outside* to: "God and Natural Science, Error and Truth." "German Women; Biographical Sketches and Characters," by Angelika v. Lagerström, promises to be an interesting work. The persons treated of are Charlotte Schiller, Eva Lessing, Meta Klopstock, Johanna Fichte, Josepha Hoffinger, Charitas Pirkheimer, and Caroline Perthes. Friedländer & Son in Berlin are to publish shortly a very valuable work by an authority on the subject, "*Handbuch der Helio-graphie*," a practical guide to the art of engraving, etching, etc., by Georg Scamoni, draughtsman and photographer in the Russian Imperial bureau for the manufacture of state-bonds and papers. A very important work, and one probably of great interest to American as well as German readers, will be issued in September by C. Krebs. The title gives almost the full scope of the work, "The Physical Influences of Forests on the Soil, Air, and Climate of Countries," by Dr. Ernst Ebermayer. The work is treated in the most scientific manner, and will be of standard value to the students of agricultural chemistry, physiology of plants, national economy, and statistics generally. Cotta, having just finished his new and cheap edition of Goethe's works, in fifteen volumes (8 thlrs.), edited in the most careful and scholarly manner, with introductions, by Karl

Gödecke, announces a new edition of Schiller's works, in uniform style, by the same editor, to be issued in six vols., at the low price of three thalers.

A. H.

ADVANCE BOOK-NOTES.

[This Department is intended to include descriptive notices, from advance sheets, of all books of popular sale. Booksellers will thus be enabled to order knowingly and confidently on books likely to sell well in their localities, and to obtain such information as to the character of new publications as will "post" them for calling the attention of particular customers to books likely to suit their taste. Advance sheets for use in this department should be forwarded by publishers at earliest convenient date.—ED.]

Business Arithmetic.—Mason, Baker & Pratt have in press "The Bryant and Stratton Business Arithmetic," whose authors are known as teachers in the first commercial colleges of the country. It contains scientific, practical, and tabular departments, comprising a thorough revision of most of Bryant and Stratton's Commercial Arithmetic, with carefully prepared new articles. It proposes to afford such information to the student, accountant, and business man as will give a clear understanding of the science of numbers and of the art of commercial and business computations. It comprises the philosophy of numbers and their relations, and the complete analysis of operations needed for advanced classes of students, as well as concise rules and formulas, and extensive information of principles, facts, and tables, required by practical business men in all departments.

Out of the Clouds: Into the Light, is the title of seventeen discourses on the leading doctrines of the day, in the light of Bible Christianity, by the late Rev. William Metcalf, D.D., which Lippincott & Co. will shortly publish, in 12mo., pp. 258. He was a Philadelphia clergyman, who, fifty years ago, preached a new movement which had "no creed but the Bible," and professed to compass all the sects. These sermons are earnest discussions of the fundamental beliefs. They are preceded by a memoir of their author, written by his son.

Gladstone's Faraday we have already referred to in these columns with highest praise, and we are glad to note that an American edition is very nearly ready at the Harpers. The life of Faraday is a very notable example of a man who raised himself from humble life to the very pinnacle of fame, simply by his talents and sterling worth. No story is more delightfully and fascinatingly told by Mr. Gladstone, and no more entertaining or better book can be found in the whole range of biography. For boys, as well as grown folks, it is admirable. The Harpers' edition is in neat 16mo, pp. 223, with wood-cut portrait.

Little Folk Life is the title of a new book by Gail Hamilton, for children, which the Harpers will publish very soon, in 16mo, pp. 219. It consists of sixteen pages of child life, chiefly school life and talk, under such titles as "The New Scholar," "The City Girl," "Sweeping the School-house," "The Two Compositions," "A Rainy Day," the latter being an especially clever story of how the little folks played at making poetry.

The Maid of Sker; by R. D. Blackmore, which is the forthcoming number of Harper's select novels, is a story of Welsh life, which has been running through *Blackwood's Magazine*, and has that impress of good quality. It is a novel charmingly fresh in style, the narrator being an old Welsh fisherman, and the heroine a child whom he had rescued from the waves. The concluding scene, where Dick Chonne, who has gone mad with hydrophobia, is strangled to death by the parson, is especially original and powerful.

The Fall Trade Sale.

The fall trade sale of books, as usual at the Clinton Hall auction rooms of Messrs. George A. Leavitt & Co., will begin this year on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 9 P. M. The catalogue, as now ready, is among the largest ever issued, numbering 626 pages. The sale will continue until the end of the following week, Sept. 21, commencing each day at nine and continuing through the evening, with the usual intermissions at one and six. Messrs. William Leavitt, Pratt, and Foster, will officiate as usual at the hammer. The orders for catalogues have so far been exceptionally heavy, pointing to a large attendance at the sale.

The sale opens with the Messrs. Appleton's invoice, comprising a good line of their well-known publications and a hundred each of their forthcoming books, after which comes Roberts Bros.' consignment, the first they have made to a trade sale, embracing large quantities, from 50 to 500 of their popular books. J. B. Ford & Co.'s, and other invoices will also be sold that day. Hurd & Houghton and J. R. Osgood & Co. send large consignments for the second day. On the third, besides Claxton's books and Steiger's globes, there will be an extensive sale of blank books, including a large invoice from D. Appleton & Co., of their own manufacture. The Catholic books will all be sold Saturday, the 14th. On Monday will be offered the finest line of English books yet consigned to a trade sale, including a superb invoice, valued at \$50,000, from Mr. Sotheran, comprising finely illustrated and standard books, and others from Scribner-Welford, and Bohn. Tuesday a heavy consignment from Lee & Shepard, Boston, their first to a trade sale for many years, with 100 each of the Oliver Optic and other leading sets of juveniles, and invoices from Austin, Armstrong & Co., and others. Wednesday, Little, Brown & Co., Swaney, Widdleton, etc.; Thursday, the Routledges, Miller, etc.; Friday, the Putnams, Wiley, etc.; and Saturday, stationery.

On Thursday, September 10, the day before the opening of the regular trade sale, there will be a special sale of stereotype plates, large quantities of books, remainders of editions, etc., in settlement of the estate of the late Charles Scribner, Esq. A separate catalogue of this sale will be ready this week. Forty-eight sets of plates will be offered, comprising some of the most valuable standard works published in America, such as Duyckinck's "Cyclopedia of American Literature," Forsyth's "Cicero," Derby's "Homer," Dawson's "Federalist," Beecher's "Prayers from Plymouth Pulpit," Tuckerman's "America and her Commentators," Dean Stanley's Sermons, Mrs. Ellet's "Queens of American Society," Mrs. Kirkland's works, Wood's "Insects at Home," etc. It should be said that a great part of this list is offered, not to get rid of the plates, but to settle up the estate, so that the opportunity is a rare one. Copyrights can be bought with most of the plates, and the remainders of editions obtained by purchase at cost of manufacture.

"A VOLUME of "Tales of the Teutonic Lands," is about to appear in England, from the pens of the Rev. George W. Cox, M. A., and Mr. Eustace H. Jones, the authors of "Popular Romances of the Middle Ages."

"A MEMORIAL of Alice and Phoebe Cary" (with their later poems), by Mary Clemmer Ames, and "Boarding-School Days," by *Vieux Moustache*, with illustrations by Darley and Nast, are among the announcements of Hurd & Houghton.

LITERARY AND TRADE GOSSIP.

WITH reference to unwritten works, Mr. E. W. Forster, of the *Hants Guardian*, England, says: "From my earliest connection with a newspaper, now many years ago, it has been my practice to compose all leaders from case direct, without the help of any copy whatever. I have followed this plan in many other ways connected with newspaper work; and what it is desirable to communicate to the public is this fact, that the rate of 'composing' coincides admirably with the flow of thought; that to furnish a good leader, or anything else, it is a great advantage to produce it from the head direct, ignoring the use of pen and paper."

THE *Athenæum* says: "We hear of Sunday libraries in Cincinnati as a novelty. There was a library open on Sundays in Liverpool, from twenty to five and twenty years ago. The readers are said to have been so numerous that they sat on the floor, each man between the legs of the man behind him, like slaves in the old slave ships. The 'unco' guid' people succeeded in shutting up the Sunday Library as profane; but the gin palace was left open. Mrs. Crawshaw, of Cyfarthfa, near Merthyr Tydvil, has had five free cottage libraries open during the seven days, in full activity, in a radius of a mile round Cyfarthfa. When the news first got into local papers, opposition was suggested, but the lady said, 'It is too late, they have been in existence a year and a half!'"

THE atlas-size volume in Monteith's Geographical Series (A. S. Barnes & Co.), rightly entitled "Monteith's Comprehensive Geography," embraces a surprising variety of departments. It is planned for every grade, so that it may be gone over again and again by successive classes. The colored maps are most profuse, while the relief pictures of the principal countries give a clear idea by direct observation of the great river and mountain systems. By the ingenious device of using the State of Kansas, which is a double square of two hundred miles dimensions, as a standard, the comparative sizes of States and countries are impressed upon the mind. There are historical notes as to each country, and an outline of ancient geography, with three maps, is given. Copious illustrations, many of high merit, add to the value of a work exceptionally worthy the attention of teachers.

AMONG recent publications of D. J. Lothrop & Co., Boston, are "Beulah Romney," a live boarding-school book for girls—which is decidedly at the other extreme from the wooden books too common in this class, being full of school-girl dash and slang, though of thorough religious sentiment—written by Julia A. Eastman, author of the prize story "Short Comings and Long Goings;" and "Dr. Plassid's Patients," by Una Locke, a story in which the experiences of a Christian doctor, who is at the same time a missionary among souls as well as bodies, form the basis of the narrative.

THE paragraph in our last issue referring to the Harpers' enormous stock of stereotype plates, should have been credited to the *Watchman and Reflector*, Boston, whose literary items are brightest of the bright.

MR. WELFORD writes from London to the *Book-buyer*, under date of July 25: "The production of books, like other less intellectual industries, is fairly at an end for the time being, and until October very little that is new can be looked for. The publishing season has not been an eventful one. Hardly the average has been reached either in number or quality; and though the mechanical trades connected with books have been fully employed, it has been rather in reproduction of standard books than

in the preparation of new ones. An incidental notion of the extent of influence enjoyed by the Church of England, may be gathered from the fact that the demand created by the issue of the 'New Lctionary of Scripture Lessons,' has actually disorganized the binding trade throughout the kingdom, and it has been almost impossible to get any work of the kind done while all the artisans were busy on 'Daily Services,' prayer books, etc., at almost any rates of payment they liked to ask."

RUSKIN'S "Lectures on Architecture," the third of his Oxford series, are forthcoming abroad. What must be his chagrin that a competent authority lately said that he exerted less influence over the young men of the University than the last number of *Punch*.

FERDINAND FREILIGRATH, the German poet, writes Justin McCarthy, is making a translation of Bret Harte's dialect poems into the language of Uhland and Heine. The undertaking may seem hardly feasible, and one may wonder at first how the talk of Truthful James and the Californian slang of Dow's Flat can find any possible expression in German. But Freiligrath has a happy art of reproducing in his own language the eccentricities of another, and of course he puts Bret Harte's dialect into a dialect of German, which may be called its counterpart. Anyhow, the effect is surprisingly good; one can have scarcely any idea beforehand of its success.

MR. M. F. COLEMAN, of Nantucket, Mass., has just published a correct and complete reprint of the old Nantucket romance, "Miriam Coffin; or the Whale-fishermen," by Colonel Joseph C. Hart. He has taken great pains to make it an exact reprint of the quaint old story, giving only the original text, with all foot-notes, quotations, music, etc.

THE San Francisco *Bulletin* indignantly resents the imputation that California failed to appreciate Miller and Harte until they left it: "The little volume that Joaquin Miller first published, some years ago, in Oregon, was favorably received, and won quite as much praise in San Francisco as it deserved. His first mature and striking poetry, on which alone it was possible to build a reputation, he chose to publish in London. Its merit would in all probability have been as cordially recognized here if it had been published here. . . . As to Bret Harte, he had a high reputation in this State years before he had obtained any recognition at the East. His poems and sketches not only went the rounds of our local press, but brought him fair compensation. Admiration for his talent secured him a sinecure position in the mint, on a good salary, for eight years; he could command \$10 for a short editorial from either of the leading papers in this city; and his income from the *Overland*, when it was a loss to its publishers, was not less than \$250 in gold per month. The East never knew him until he published the 'Heathen Chinee,' and then Osgood & Co. bought his fame for a year at \$10,000. Mark Twain was popular on this coast long before he was known on the Atlantic side; and so of a number of California writers. Of course, with our small population, the reward of literary talent cannot equal that which an Eastern reputation will secure; but intellectual appreciation is just as quick and generous here, if not quite so slobbering and toadying."

We are glad to learn that Prof. John S. Hart, Professor of Modern Languages at Cornell University, now abroad in Germany, is to prepare during his absence, at the suggestion of the Messrs. Putnam, a work on the German Universities. While presenting an interesting and comprehensive view of the seats of higher education in Germany, its

plan contemplates especially the imparting of desirable information to American students who contemplate residence abroad. In connection with this new work, the Messrs. Putnam will issue a new edition of Mr. Charles Astor Bristed's "Five Years in an English University," a popular book which has been nearly fifteen years out of print, in great demand and very rare. Some years ago the publishers themselves had to pay, on an order, \$10 for a copy of the work held by Mr. Gowans at that price, and a copy for revision could only be obtained from the Mercantile Library.

"**ETHEL MILDMA'S FOLLIES**," is the title of a lively story by the author of "Petite's Romance," published in the neat 8vo cloth series of J. R. Osgood & Co. The scene shifts between Nice and doings of that fashionable resort, and Castle Garvagh in Ireland, the right of inheritance to which is one of the problems of the novel. Ethel Mildmay, the heroine, is wooed by the two claimants to the castle, and romantically attempts to bring about peace by consenting to marry the one she does not love on the condition that he will give up the castle to the other. Fate interferes opportunely, however, the old lord of the castle becoming insane, setting fire to the mansion, and desperately and cunningly trying to burn up both expectant heirs. The right one escapes, and all is well. The style of the book is conversational.

JOAQUIN MILLER'S poem, "The Isles of the Amazons"—for which the *Overland* is to pay him \$2,000—was originally to have been of about two thousand lines, in five parts. He now writes to a friend that he has decided to enlarge its plan considerably.

"**UNLIKELY TALES and Wrong-Headed Essays**," is the title of a forthcoming book from C. H. Ross, editor of the English comic paper *Judy*.

It is now definitely announced that the last part of M. Littré's great French Dictionary may be expected in November.

A NEW enterprise of the Messrs. Lippincott, lately announced, is the publication of a "Standard Edition" of Dickens, uniform with that already published of Thackeray.

The *Etcetera* is the title of a new English magazine.

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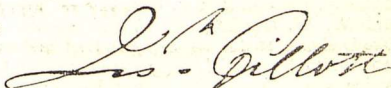
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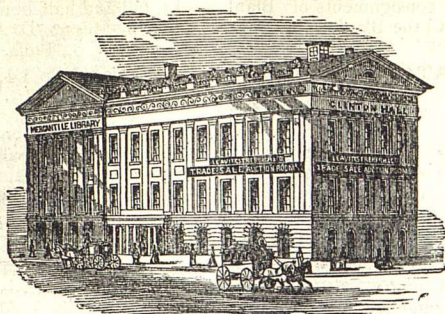
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